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April 30, 2001

BOX PCT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SMALL ENTITY

PCT/EP99/07598
- filed 11 October 1999

Re: Application of Hubert HALLER
"CASE-SAFE SYSTEM"
Our Ref.: 2368.119

Dear Sir:

The following documents and fees are submitted herewith in connection with the above application for the purpose of entering the National stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 and in accordance with Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

- this express request to immediately begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
- an executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.
- a German Language International Application with European Search Report
- an English (translation of the) International Application.
- an English (translation of) Article 19 claim amendments.
- English translation of Article 34 amendments (annexes to the IPER) and German language IPER.
- Four (4) Sheets of Formal Drawings
- Preliminary Amendment.

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Attorney Docket: 2368.119

It is assumed that copies of the International Application, the International Search Report, the International Preliminary Examination Report, and any Articles 19 and 34 amendments as required by §371(c) will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned can easily provide them upon request.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	9	- 20 =	x \$ 9 =	\$
Independent Claims	1	- 3 =	x \$39 =	\$
Base Fee				\$430.00*
Declaration Late Filing Fee.....				\$ 65.00
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$495.00

* A copy of the European Search Report is attached.

A check for the statutory filing fee of \$495.00 is attached. Please charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0877. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.492 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to said Account.

Assertion is hereby made that the inventor qualifies as independent inventors as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled "CASE-SAFE SYSTEM", described in the specification filed herewith.

Priority is claimed from October 28, 1998, based on German Application No. 198 49 704.0.

Respectfully submitted,

PENDORF & CUTLIFF
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

09/830732
JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 APR 2001

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hubert HALLER

Appln. No.:

Filed: April 30, 2001

For: CASE-SAFE SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: 2368.119

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ATTN: PCT
Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Siri:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before paragraph [0001] insert:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Page 1, before paragraph [0002] insert:

--Description of the Related Art--

Page 1, before paragraph [0006] insert:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 5, before paragraph [00033] insert:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Page 6, before paragraph [00034] insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 10, line 1, please delete "Patent Claims" and insert therefore --What is claimed is:--

Please cancel the original Claims 1-16 and PCT Substitute Claims 1-9 and add the following new claims:

10. Case-safe system (10) comprising a stationary housing (12), adapted to be secured in closets, on walls or in vehicles, in boats, in air planes and in bank safes or the like, in which a case (14) adapted for being received in the housing (12) can be inserted and barricaded or locked, wherein the housing (12) includes locking boreholes (22) for locking and for receiving locking bolts (24) associated with the case (14), and that the case (14) is provided with its own independent security locking system (28).

11. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein the security locking system (28) is a lock with key, a combination lock, a magnetic card lock or a electronic lock.

12. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein the locking boreholes (22) are provided with reinforcements (23).

13. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein the housing or housings (12) include boreholes (18) for a locking rod or bar (20).

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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14. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 13, wherein the locking rod or bar (20) can be secured with a lock (26).
15. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein the housing (12) includes a concealment covering (30) and/or a shield (16).
16. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein the housing (12) and/or the case (14) is comprised of a fire resistant material.
17. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein the housing (12) and/or the case (14) is comprised of steel, cast aluminum or extruded metal parts.
18. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 10, wherein multiple housings (12) are connectable with each other.

REMARKS

The specification claims have been amended to conform the original translated specification and claims to U.S. requirements, i.e., appropriate section headers are added, reference in the specification to the claims have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

A copy of the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report is provided which says that the PCT Amended Claims have novelty, inventive step and industrial utility.

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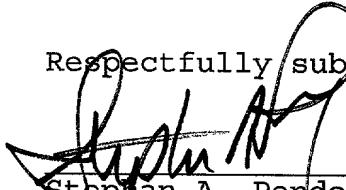
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U.S. Application No.
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 2368.119

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephan A. Pendorf
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Date: April 30, 2001

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL Number: EL568147113US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: April 30, 2001

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: ATTN: PCT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.


Bonnie L. Horst

4/PR TS

09/830732
JCN:8Rsc'd PCT/PTO 30 APR 2001

CASE-SAFE SYSTEM

[0001] The invention concerns a case-safe system for the optimal securing of valuables of all type.

[0002] Security cases and safes are basically known. Safes are however generally so designed, that the objects to be placed therein, which are usually valuables, must be individually deposited.

[0003] Security cases are characterized by the fact that they can be opened only with great difficulty by unauthorized persons, however, can easily be walked away with.

[0004] Security cases are also often used, for example in offices or by persons who frequently and on short notice must make business trips, and for this require objects such as documents, diskettes, important papers or also valuables, which must constantly be stored.

[0005] This leads to a large security risk, since as already described above, this type of security case can easily be walked away with.

[0006] The invention is thus concerned with the problem, of providing a case-safe system, which uses technically simple means yet avoids the hitherto known disadvantages and strongly reduces the risk of theft.

[0007] This problem is inventively solved by a case-safe system, which is comprised of a stationary housing, in which a case adapted for being received in this housing can be introduced and barricaded or locked.

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D.C. 20231, ON THIS DATE. THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED
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ACCOUNT 16-0877.

[0008] The basic idea of the invention is to provide a modular, flexible case-safe system for the optimal securing of valuables of all kinds, wherein this case-safe system can be provided in various sizes up to a mini vault or mini safe.

[0009] The housing could be secured stationarily, for example in closets, or in walls, in vehicles, in boats, in airplanes and in bank safes.

[00010] Besides this it is possible to connect or assemble multiple housings with each other, and to then secure this assembly either vertically or horizontally to walls.

[00011] In order to conceal or disguise the visual clues of possible stored valuables, it is advantageous to provide the housing with an appropriate cover or shield.

[00012] According to a further design of the invention it is possible to provide the housing with boreholes, through which a locking bar or rod can be inserted or, in certain cases, could be secured to with an additional lock.

[00013] A further security enhancing measure is achieved when the housing or housings are provided with locking or barricading boreholes, in which locking bolts can engage, which are provided on the case. These locking boreholes could be provided in reinforcements within the housing.

[00014] The case itself can include a security locking system, which is comprised of either a lock and key, a combination lock, a magnetic card lock or an electronic lock.

[00015] Not only for visual reasons but rather also in order to reduce the risk of recognition of presence of values, it is

possible to provide the housing or housings with a camouflaging cover or shield.

[00016] The same applies for the case itself, which likewise can be camouflaged or covered.

[00017] Since the objects being stored are usually valuables, it is advantageous, when the housing or housings and/or the case is made of a fire resistant material. These materials could be for example steel, cast aluminum or extruded parts.

[00018] This case-safe system offers optimal security in combination with the special housing, which is dimensioned for receiving various case sizes.

[00019] These special frames or housings can be screwed together in various ways and then affixed to the wall or in a closet.

[00020] Further, the use of this security system is almost unlimited and can be used in any household, office, in vehicles, in air planes, ships and also for example in hotel rooms or in banks.

[00021] Since the special frame or as the case may be housing can include reinforcements or strengthened parts with boreholes, with which the case can be locked therein using an appropriate locking system, a removal of the case out of the housing is only possible with the appropriate key or, as the case may be, code or appropriate lock combination.

[00022] This offers an optimal and high security for a flexible, portable system. For the portable case in any size there are various covers or as the case may be casings for camouflaging or disguising, for example leather or cloth hand bags, etc.

[00023] The housing, as already mentioned, can be screwed together, so that multiple housings can be connected to each other to form a modular safe or vault system.

[00024] For this, special walls or, as the case may be, stable corners can be utilized. This system offers a particular advantage especially for employment in offices, when diskettes, papers, documents, etc. must be organized under lock and key, however nevertheless must be rapidly made available in the desired assembly.

[00025] A mini safe can be provided for vehicle papers, travel documents, as well as jewels and valuables, wherein the principle is otherwise the same as in the case of larger embodiments.

[00026] The mounting or bolting of the housing or housings can be so designed or arranged, that at least six threaded fasteners are provided.

[00027] The special case is provided with the above already mentioned securing or locking system for the housing, so that in this embodiment a double security system is integrated, one system for locking of the case itself and one system for locking into the housing.

[00028] The selection of the respective locks is not particularly limited, as long as they exhibit a high security standard.

[00029] Practical examples for the use of the inventive case-safe system are for example in the domestic household or apartment houses, which are secured in a closet or screwed to a wall or even mortared into a wall. Thereby the case is securely locked in the house.

[00030] In a trip in an automobile it is possible to incorporate an appropriate housing in the vehicle itself. Within this, as before, the case is securely locked.

[00031] In hotels the housings can be applied to either to a hotel closet or on a wall, so that the matching case can be securely locked therein.

[00032] This case-safe system is also of interest for banks, since they can offer for their customers the appropriate housing with the thereto matching cases, in which valuable papers, jewelry and other objects of value can be stored.

[00033] Further characteristics and advantages of the invention can be seen from the description of one illustrative embodiment as well as the drawings, to which reference is made. There is shown:

Fig. 1 a perspective view of a case-safe system with a covering;

Fig. 2 a arrangement of housings stacked one above the other, which can be supplementally locked using a locking bar or rod;

Fig. 3 a perspective view of the housing with a shield positioned in front of it;

Fig. 4 various side views of the case; and

Fig. 5 a housing, in which one case is inserted.

[00034] One example of a case-safe system 10 is described on the basis of Figs. 1 through 5, wherein the same reference numbers are used to designate the same parts.

[00035] The case-safe system 10 is comprised essentially of a housing 12, into which the associated matching or fitting case 14 can be inserted.

[00036] As can be seen from Fig. 1, the housing 12 can include a covering 30, which can on the one hand serve esthetic purposes, on the other hand however also serves to conceal visual clues of the presence of valuables or as the case may be the storage thereof.

[00037] This covering 30 includes a shield 16, as shown in Fig. 3.

[00038] For locking of the housing or housings 12 boreholes 18 can be provided in these housings 12, through which a locking bar or rod 20 can be inserted. This locking rod 20 can supplementally be secured using a lock 26.

[00039] As also can be seen from Fig. 3, the housing 12 in this embodiment exhibits four stiffening corrugations or reinforcing seams, which respectively contain three boreholes. These boreholes serve on the one hand for securing to a wall or a corner, depending upon whether the housing 12 is to be secured horizontally or vertically, and on the other hand for connecting multiple housings 12 with each other.

[00040] It can further be seen from Figs. 2 and 3, that the housing 12 includes locking boreholes 22, which are provided near the front or open end.

[00041] While the boreholes in Fig. 2 are essentially directed through the walls of the housing 12, there is another possibility, as shown in Fig. 3, of providing these boreholes 22 in reinforcements 23, which are provided within the housing 12.

[00042] These locking boreholes 22 serve for receiving locking bolts 24 which are provided in the case 14, as shown in Fig. 4.

[00043] Thereby the inserted case 14 can be supplementally locked by an appropriate system, so that a removal of the case 14 out of the housing 12 is only possible with a matching key or code or combination lock combination.

[00044] Although it is not shown in the figures, it is possible, to provide the case-safe system 10 with the most various sizes, and with various covers or as the case may be insertion or enveloping possibilities for camouflage with leather, cloth and other materials.

[00045] As shown in Fig. 4, the case 14 includes its own security locking system 28.

[00046] Thereby the case 14 contains two locking system, namely first the security locking system 28 and second the locking bolts 24 for locking with the housing 12.

[00047] The selection of the locks is not limited, and could be combination locks, locks with keys, locks with magnetic cards, and any other known locks with high security standards, and also even electro-voltaic security systems can be employed.

[00048] In Fig. 5 a prospective view of a housing 12 with a case 14 inserted therein is shown.

Reference Number List

10	Case-Safe System
12	Housing
14	Case
16	Cover
18	Borehole
20	Locking Rod
22	Locking Boreholes
23	Reinforcements
24	Locking Bolts
26	Lock
28	Security Locking System
30	Camouflage Cover

PCT SUBSTITUTE CLAIMS

1. Case-safe system (10) comprising a stationary housing (12), adapted to be secured in closets, on walls or in vehicles, in boats, in air planes and in bank safes or the like, in which a case (14) adapted for being received in the housing (12) can be inserted and barricaded or locked, thereby characterized, that the housing (12) includes locking boreholes (22) for locking and for receiving locking bolts (24) associated with the case (14), and that the case (14) is provided with its own independent security locking system (28).
2. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the security locking system (28) is a lock with key, a combination lock, a magnetic card lock or a electronic lock.
3. Case-safe system (10) according to Claims 1 or 2, thereby characterized, that the locking boreholes (22) are provided with reinforcements (23).
4. Case-safe system (10) according to one of Claims 1 through 3, thereby characterized, that the housing or housings (12) include boreholes (18) for a locking rod or bar (20).
5. Case-safe system (10) according to Claim 4, thereby characterized, that the locking rod or bar (20) can be secured with a lock (26).
6. Case-safe system (10) according to one of Claims 1 through 5, thereby characterized, that the housing (12) includes a concealment covering (30) and/or a shield (16).

7. Case-safe system (10) according to one of Claims 1 through 6, thereby characterized, that housing (12) and/or the case (14) is comprised of a fire resistant material.

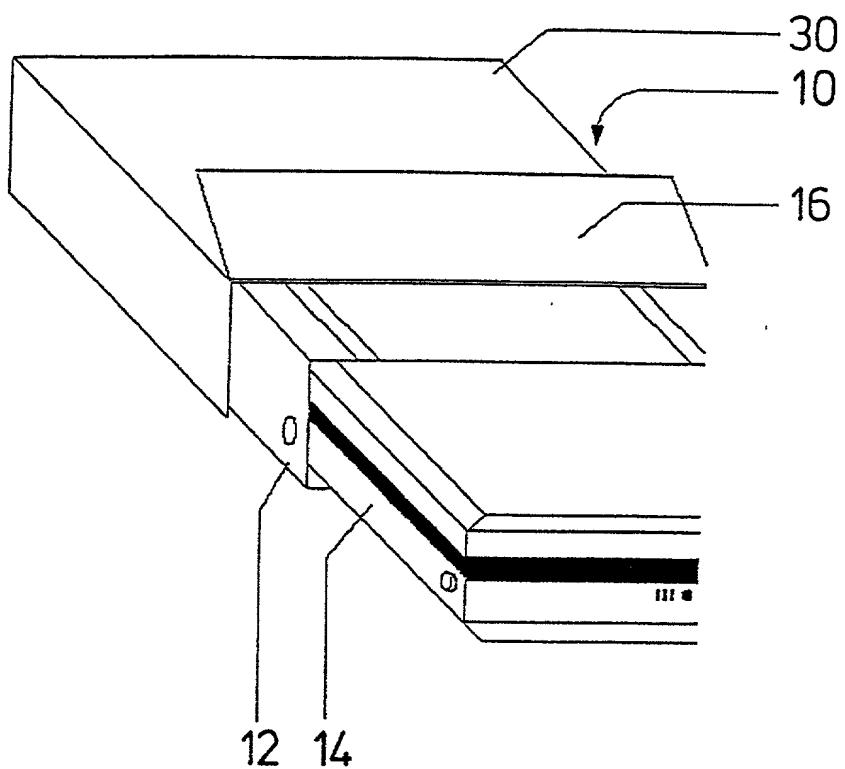
8. Case-safe system (10) according to one of Claims 1 through 7, thereby characterized, that the housing (12) and/or the case (14) is comprised of steel, cast aluminum or extruded metal parts.

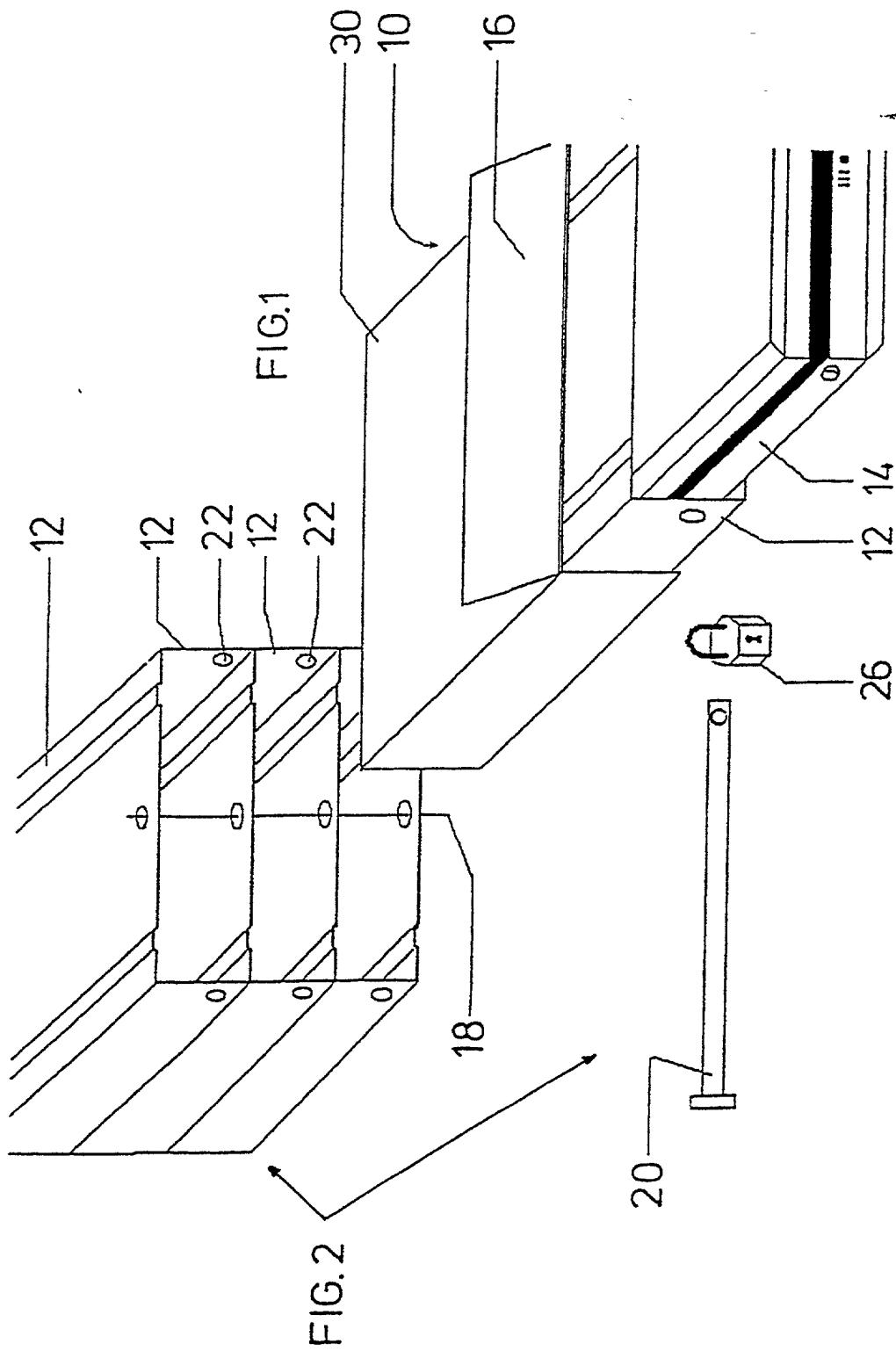
9. Case-safe system (10) according to one of Claims 1 through 8, thereby characterized, that multiple housings (12) are connectable with each other.

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a case-safe system (10) consisting of a stationary housing (12) in which a case (14) adapted to being received in said housing (12) can be inserted and locked or barricaded.

FIG.1





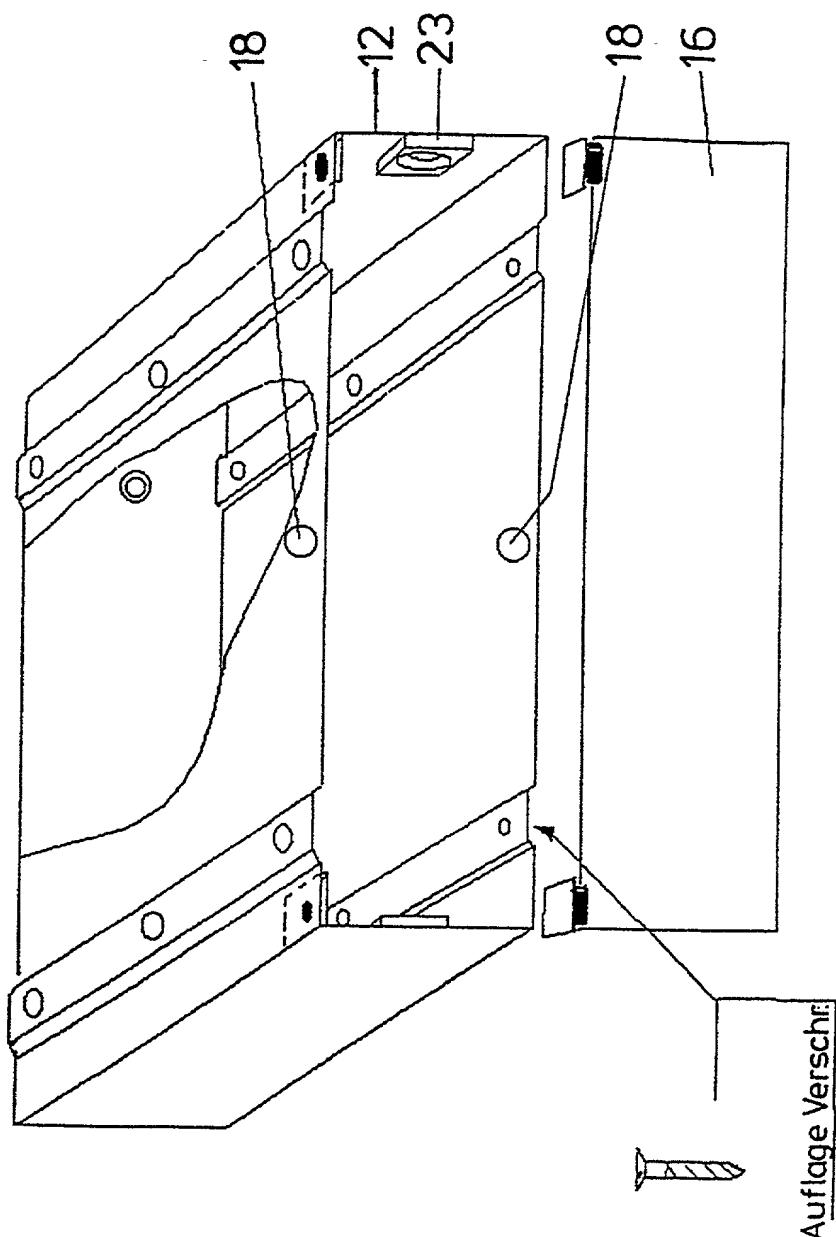


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

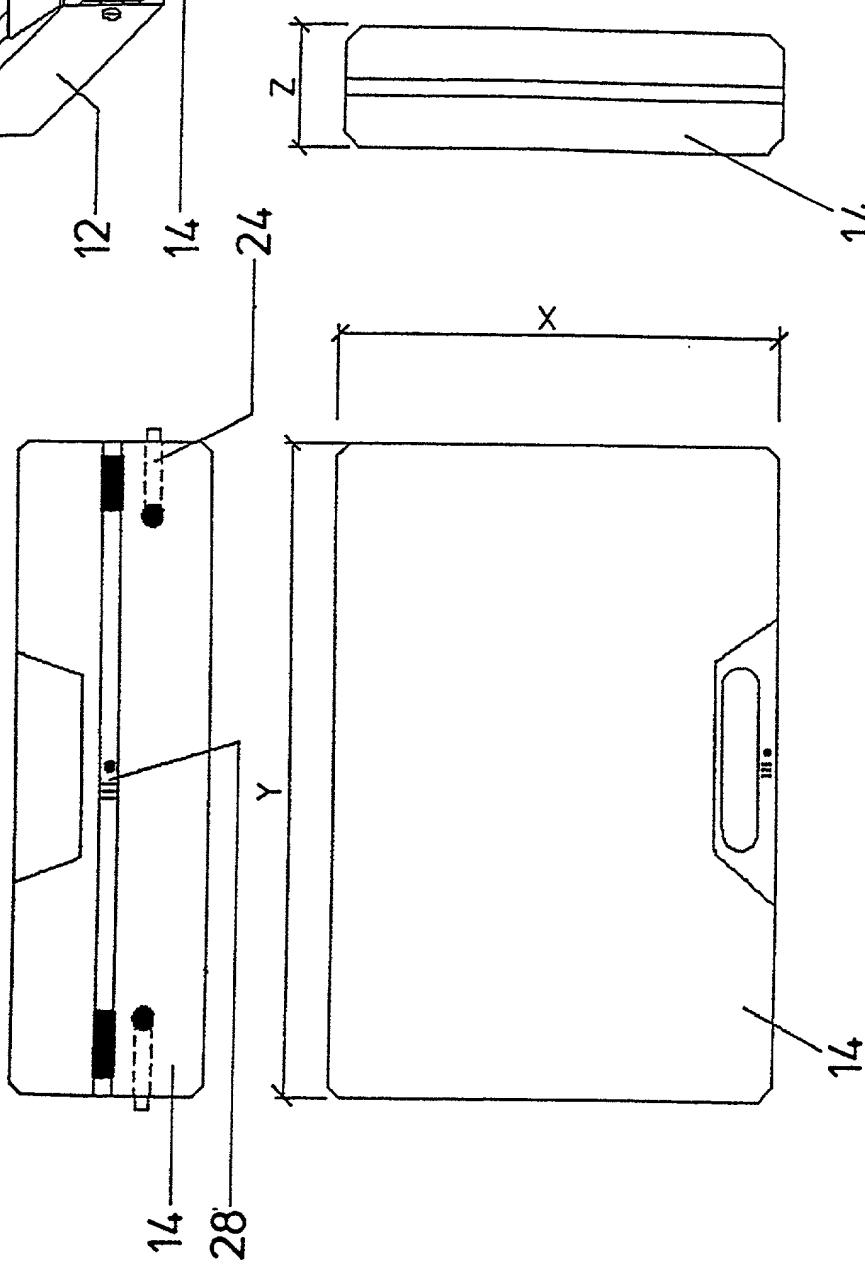
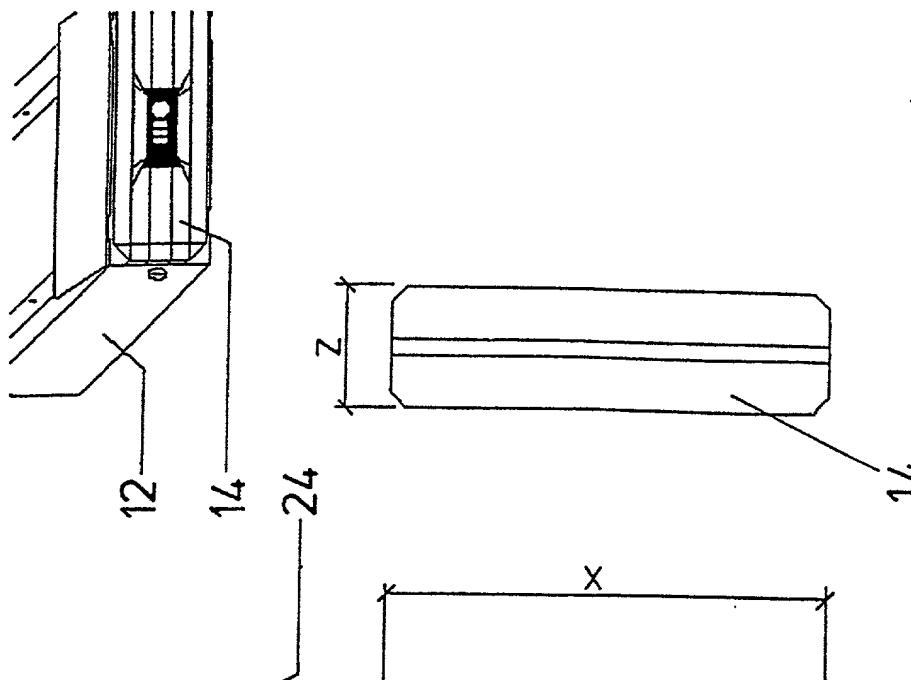


FIG 5



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

CASE-SAFE SYSTEM

which application is:

the attached application
(for original application)

based on Application No. PCT/EP99/07598
filed October 11, 1999, and amended on

(for declaration not accompanying application)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the Untied States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed (yes or no)
198 49 704.0	Germany	October 28, 1998	yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any material information under 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby appoint Stephan A. Pendorf, Reg. No. 32,665 and Yaté K. Cutliff, Reg. No. 40,577, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to Stephan A. Pendorf at Pendorf & Cutliff, P.O. Box 20445, Tampa, FL 33622-0445.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date 9.5.2001 First Inventor Hubert HALLER
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Residence same as Mailing Signature Hubert
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Citizenship German